

Claims:

1. A method for informing an application server whether or not a mobile subscriber is present on a mobile telecommunication network, characterized in that it comprises:
 - at least a first step for sending a first distinctive signal from the mobile subscriber to the mobile telecommunication network, intended for the mobile subscriber;
 - at least a second step for determining a present or not present binary state according to a reaction of the mobile telecommunication network to said first signal;
 - at least a third step for communicating to the application server the state determined in the second step.
2. The method of claim 1, characterized in that:
 - said first signal is a short message sent to the mobile telecommunication network intended for the mobile subscriber;
 - a first transition enabled by a reaction of the mobile telecommunication network indicating that the message is delivered, respectively a second transition enabled by an expiry of a time delay without reaction from the mobile telecommunication network, activates the second step that determines the present, respectively not present state of the mobile subscriber.
3. The method of claim 2, characterized in that a data coding scheme parameter in a header of the short message is positioned at a value which has the effect of commanding the mobile receiving the message to discard the content of the message and to deactivate a message received indication on the mobile.

4. The method of claim 2, characterized in that the first step is activated during an activation of the second step by positioning a time delay (T_3 , T_1) that is a function of the present or not present state determined in the second step.
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5. The method of claim 4, characterized in that it comprises a step of a wait time (T_2) activated when the second step determines the present state so as to activate the first step after expiry of the wait time (T_2).
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6. The method of claim 1, characterized in that:
 - said first signal consists of a telecommunication network node interrogation of the present or not present state of the mobile subscriber;
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 - the reaction of the mobile telecommunication network consists of a response of the telecommunication network node on the present or not present state of the mobile subscriber.
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7. The method of claim 1, characterized in that:
 - said first signal consists of a positioning of a detection point on a telecommunication network node relating to any modification of the present or not present state of the mobile subscriber;
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 - the reaction of the mobile telecommunication network consists of a notification of the telecommunication network node relating to each modification of the present or not present state of the mobile subscriber.
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8. The method of one of the preceding claims, characterized in that an activation of the third step communicating the present state to the application server is followed by an activation of the third step communicating the not present state to the application server when the state
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determined in the second step passes from present to not present.

- 5 9. The method of one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that an activation of the third step results from a transition enabled by a request originating from the server to request the state of the mobile subscriber.
- 10 10. A system for informing an application server whether or not a mobile subscriber is present on a mobile telecommunication network, characterized in that it comprises:
- 15 - first means for sending a first distinctive signal from the mobile subscriber to the mobile telecommunication network, intended for the mobile subscriber;
- 20 - second means for determining a present or not present binary state according to a reaction of the mobile telecommunication network to said first signal;
- third means for communicating to the application server the state determined by the second means.
- 25 11. The system of claim 10, characterized in that:
- the first means are arranged to send the first signal in the form of a short message intended for the mobile subscriber;
- 30 - the second means are arranged to determine the present state when the short message is delivered and to determine the not present state when the short message is not delivered after expiry of a preset time delay.
- 35 12. The system of claim 11, characterized in that the first means are arranged to send said first signal at regular time intervals that depend on the present or not present state of the mobile subscriber.